



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club
65 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2014

Volume 65 Number 12

www.phil-mont.org

December 2014

The General Meeting is on the 10th
Note the new location-
Giant supermarket, 315 York Rd, Willow Grove

PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH ANY CONTROLS ON ANY OF THE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT IN THE MEETING ROOM.



Photo by Doug WA3DSP

Thanks to the Usual Suspects for Coming Out to Old Timer's Night ...

*Inside this month ... Hanukkah, Christmas
Club Election, Winter Solstice, Bob Thomas...*

PhilMont is pleased to welcome new members
Mike Davis KD1JEY and Jim Fisher KC3BRA

Club Ballot and AuctionFest form inside

<p><i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs.</p> <p>Requests should be sent to the Editor: Rick DeVigiliis ND3B@ARRL.net</p> <p>Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer.</p> <p>Labels and mailing: KB3IV</p> <p>Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.</p>		<p>Directors:</p> <p>WA3KIO(14) WU3I (14) KB3SJS(14) N3QV(15) W3RM(15) K3HWG(15) KB2ERL(A)</p>	<p>Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 284 Springhouse, PA 19477 http://www.phil-mont.org Website: Eric N3QV & Andrew KC2PMW</p> <p>For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV</p>
		<p>Sunday Morning Net Schedules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Net at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Net at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater 	
<p>Committees</p> <p>Blurb folding: KB3IV & N3GLU Directory: KB3IV Field Day: KC2PMW</p>	<p>Internet: N3QV & KC2PMW Membership: KB3SJT Net Control: KB3IV</p>	<p>Program: W3STW Publicity: W3RM Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK</p>	<p>Scholarship: W3RM Sunshine: N3GLU VE Program: NS3K Welcome: N3UBY Youth: KC2PMW</p>

All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at Giant Supermarket, 315 York Rd, Willow Grove, PA
 Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org.

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at

Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System

Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**

147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz

Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R

W3AA Trustee: WU3I

W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV

The Officers

President: W3STW Al Tribble wstw@juno.com

Treas: NS3K Jim McCloskey jmccloskey@msn.com

Secretary: WA3GM Greg Malone wa3gm@aol.com

The Prez Sez ...



Greetings, by now you have seen a copy of the Ballot listing the candidates running for Officer or Director, so that part (generating a Ballot) of preparing for the Dec., '14 process is closed. I wish to thank Greg, WAGM; Ed, KBIV; Rick, ND3B; and a host of Club Members participating in the process for their help. In my opinion the process was a positive activity.

My hat off to Steve, WU3I for adding a new feature to "Old Timers Night." In addition to bringing an old timer to the meeting that night why not bring an item that you consider old and give a little talk about the item. While this suggestion may not be original it sure makes an interesting addition to the night's festivities, something to think about as we get ready for the next "Old Timers Night." As I think about it how old do you have to be to be considered an "old Timer" or old object?

I also enjoyed being part of bringing two former employees of an industrial equipment supplier meeting one another after 61 years but, and there always has to be a "but", "however", "whatever" or "a ha moment" that takes the big, big, I mean really big thrill out of it all and in this case, it was the fact that the two never really worked together at all thus never really getting to know one another...."oh well"stay well.

Respectfully, AL Tribble W3STW

Phil-Mont Birthdays & Tidbytes

December Birthdays

01 Eric Marano - N3QV
 02 Patricia Katz - (XYL N3OWM)
 04 Ann Marie Fort - (XYL KB3SFY)

08 Jules Stein - KB3AFH

16 James Day - WA3QED
 19 Larry Stevenson - K3HWE

21 Rick Spencer - N3FD
 22 Michelle London - KB3MTW
 24 Richard DeVirgiliis - ND3B
 25 Jim McCloskey - NS3K
 26 Barbara Yessel - KB3FXG
 27 Mindy Pollack - (XYL N3VLC)

MEMBERSHIP STATS

At press time P.M.R.C. had:
 90 Full paid members
 8 Family members
 1 Honorary member

Wanted: Old Blurbs

Doug WA3DSP is scanning and archiving as many Blurbs as he can find. Please contact him if you have any: doug@crompton.com



***The VE test session is Thursday evening
the 18th this month due to the holiday.***

As always, many thanks to our VE team!

From the Secretary

***BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING,
WEDNESDAY 11/5/2014***

Interim Club President Al W3STW called the meeting to order AT 8:00 PM.

In attendance were Al W3STW, Greg WA3GM, Jim NS3K, Bob KB2ERL, Steve WU3I, Bill W3HWG, and Fred WA3KIO. As there were enough board members present the meeting continued.

Other visitors to the meeting were: WA3QED, K3GBA, WA3DSP, KB3IV, and N3SHM.

The President W3STW informed the board that the Auction Fest will be held At Roxboro Memorial Hospital on Thursday January 8, 2015, 7:30 PM in the Wolcuff Auditorium. This change had to be made as we are not allowed to sell anything at the Giant Store due to corporate rules. Since this was in contradiction to our by-laws Steve WU3I make a motion to move this meeting from the traditional Wednesday night to Thursday night. Motion 2nd by Bill W3HWG. Motion approved unanimously by the board.

Steve WU3I received an email from Roger Jordan, W4RFJ asking for an Assistant Phila ARES Coordinator from Phil Mont. Not having a lot of information on this a motion was made by Bill

W3HWG and 2nd by WU3I that the board postpone this initiative until we get further information on

what commitment would be involved. Motion approved unanimously by the board.

The club received a letter from a teacher at the Penrose School in SW Philadelphia who wants to bring Amateur Radio into his school and is looking for a sponsor.

Doug WA3DSP suggested that we invite this teacher to a General Meeting and possibly get more information from him. The President W3STW asked Doug, WA3DSP to draft a letter inviting him to the meeting.

The President W3STW wanted to know how we could streamline the application process. The secretary, Greg WA3GM read the by laws concerning membership and the board agrees that the current system is adequate.

Bill W3HWG made a motion to accept the following new members:

Mike Davis KD1JEY

Jim Fisher KC3BRA

Motion 2nd by Steve WU3I and the motion approved unanimously the board. We welcome the new members to Phil Mont.

The president Al W3STW stated that the nominating committee has come up with a slate of candidates for the December election.

President Greg WA3GM

Vice Pres Bill W3AOK

Secretary Steve WU3I

Treasurer Ed KB3IV

Directors:

Bob KB2ERL

Jim N3SHM

Fred WA3KIO

Sam K3GBA

Rick ND3B

Jack WA3BXH

Motion made by Steve WU3I and 2nd by Bill W3HWG to nominate Al W3STW to be the Judge of Elections. Motion approved unanimously by the board.

Fred WA3KIO made a motion to donate \$75.00 to WDRV FM as a token of our appreciation for them allowing us to use their facility for our board meeting. Motion approved unanimously by the board.

Steve WU3I stated that Yaesu is currently upgrading their Fusion repeater to the DR1X and Yaesu will offer the club to purchase this repeater for a cost of \$500.00 and we keep the original Fusion repeater as a backup. At this point Steve WU3I made a motion to take advantage of this limited time offer. The motion was 2nd by Greg WA3GM. The majority of the board agreed to this motion and the motion passed. (One no vote).

Steve WU3I made a motion that the Club open its own PO Box. The current PO Box is privately owned and the club should have their own. Motion 2nd by Bob KB2ERL. The majority of the board agreed to this motion and the motion passed. (One abstention).

As there was no further business to discuss at this meeting Al W3STW made a motion to adjourn and this was seconded by Bob KB2ERL. Meeting adjourned at 9:23 PM.

GENERAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY 11/12/14

THE Meeting was called to order by the President AL W3STW at 7:43 PM in our new meeting facility at the Giant Super Store located in Willow Grove, PA.

The President called for Committee Reports:

Repeater Committee: Bill W3AOK Bill reports that the NEW Upgraded Fusion Repeater is in and will be interfaced to the controller.

Tonight's Raffle prize is a Dual Band Baofeng HT.

Treasurer Report: Jim NS3K reports the only major expense for the month is the upgraded Fusion Repeater at a cost of \$500.00.

Editor Report: Rick ND3B says that the deadline for all submissions to the Blurb is the 20th of the month so please contribute pictures, articles etc ...

Net Control: Ed KB3IV reports that the Sunday Morning Net control schedule is out and has been distributed to the net controls.

Nominating Committee: Greg WA3GM announced the following slate of candidates for 2015:

President	Greg WA3GM
Vice Pres.	Bill W3AOK
Secretary	Steve WU3I
Treasurer	Ed KB3IV

Directors:

(3 Directors will be needed in this election)

Fred WA3KIO
Bob KB2ERL
Sam K3GBA
Jim N3SHM
Rick ND3B
Jack WA3BXH

The president, Al W3STW, called for further nominations from the floor and none were received so the balloting is now closed.

The Judge of Elections is Al W3STW. Al will take care of all paperwork for the election.

Auction Fest: Ed KB3IV reports that as we cannot hold our Auction Fest at our current meeting location due to company (*Giant*) rules, the Auction Fest will be held on **THURSDAY** January 8, 2015 at the Wolcuff Auditorium at Roxboro Memorial Hospital. **PLEASE NOTE THE DATE THURSDAY JANUARY 8, 2015.**

Tonight's 50/50 winner of the dual band Baofeng HT is Cully N3HTZ.

CALL FOR OLD BLURBS: Doug, WA3DSP request anyone will old copies of the blurb to please pass them along to him. He will scan them and then return them to you if you so desire.

The Meeting was now turned over to Steve WU3I for Old Timers Night.

Steve WU3I asked all members present who were never in the Military to please give a hearty round of applause to those members present who did serve our nation.

APPLAUSE APPLAUSE APPLAUSE
APPLAUSE

Steve WU3I announced that there were tables set up in the back of the room with old time memorabilia. Steve also demonstrated several items in the front of the room.

Old timer's picture was taken in the back of the room.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Malone, WA3GM
Secretary

ANY PORT IN A STORM – PART 2

Time to sail on
Bob Thomas, W3NE

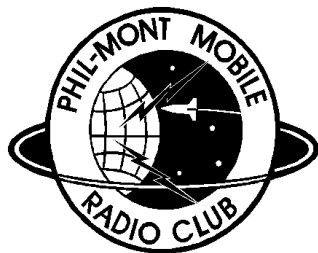
A welcome change in my leisure life occurred when evenings and weekends were free of homework, leaving plenty of time to prepare for obtaining an amateur radio license. After a few weeks with a paying job I had saved enough to buy a Hallicrafters S-40A basic communications receiver. On a Saturday in late June I visited Consolidated Radio on Arch Street (*the* Philadelphia ham store) to buy the receiver but was disappointed to learn there would be at least a three week wait for delivery. That was not unusual then because manufacturing

and distribution channels for many consumer products still had not fully recovered from the war effort.

When the receiver finally arrived I left work early to pick it up, rushed home, gobbled dinner then set it up and tuned around the bands. 75 meters was the usual bedlam of heterodynes but down at 3555 kc. W1AW blasted through with no interference on their code practice transmissions. That was the first of many evenings during the summer that I copied W1AW until I was able to get 15 w.p.m. solid in preparation for the FCC license exam.

In 1950 there were three simply-defined grades of amateur radio licenses. Class B, the basic ticket, required a thorough knowledge of regulations, radio theory and practice, and the ability to copy International Morse code at 13 w.p.m. A Class B license authorized CW operation in all ham bands but phone operation was allowed only on 160M, 10M and the VHF bands (40M was CW-only). After a year as a Class B op you could apply for a Class A license, which permitted operation on all phone bands after passing an examination on advanced radiotelephony. Class C licenses were available for applicants living more than 125 miles from the nearest FCC office. It required passing a mail-in test and a code test administered by a local licensed ham or commercial operator. Class C licensees (and all hams for that matter) were subject to re-examination at any time; you had to remain proficient in theory and code or risk losing your license.

I took time off from work one morning and went to the FCC office in the U.S. Customs House at 2nd and Chestnut. The examiner was Joe Welsh, a well-known and liked local ham but strictly an "FCC Man" when he was on the job. The theory portion of the test required drawing circuits for oscillators, key click filters, and RF amplifiers, as well as written answers to questions on regulations, circuit operation, and antennas. There was no "pre-published" question pool – anything could be asked within the scope of license requirements. After completing that part of the exam Joe moved me to a desk for the code test. It was supposed to consist of five-character groups of letters, numbers and punctuation sent at 13 w.p.m. The code had to be copied with no errors for at least one minute in the five minute test period. In other words, you had to correctly copy 65 consecutive characters. *Continued on page 10 - ->*



The Blurb

December 2014

PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.

19th ANNUAL HAM RADIO “AUCTION-FEST”

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015

7PM

AT WOLCOFF AUDITORIUM

ROXBOROUGH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

5800 RIDGE AVE. (Ridge Ave & Jamestown St.)

PHILADELPHIA PA 19128

TALK IN: 147.030 (91.5PL)

For More Information Contact:

PHIL-MONT

P.O. BOX 404 - WARMINSTER, PA 18974

OR E-MAIL

info@phil-mont.org

(See Reverse Side For Auction Details)

AUCTION RULES

1. P.M.R.C. will retain 10% of the sale price up to a max. of \$30.00 per item.
2. All sellers will pay a \$2.00 sellers fee to P.M.R.C.
3. Seller must supply a thorough description of each piece offered for sale on a separate form. (you may make copies of this form)
4. All sales are between the seller and buyer, not P.M.R.C.
5. P.M.R.C. will be held harmless in all transactions between buyer and seller.

***THIS AUCTION IS INTENDED TO BE A FUN EVENT HOSTED BY P.M.R.C.
AND WILL STAY IN THAT SPIRIT!***

I AGREE TO THE ABOVE RULES.

***NOTE: LIST ONLY ONE ITEM PER FORM-
FOR ADDITIONAL ITEMS PLEASE MAKE COPIES OF THIS FORM***

Seller_____Call_____

Buyer (for club use)_____Call_____

Item_____Model#_____

Minimum bid you will accept \$_____

Tell us about this item

The Blur
Ballot

December 2014

Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

As per Article 12 Section 7 of the Bylaws;

Voting by members at the Annual Meeting shall be either in person or by absentee ballot. Absentee ballots shall be in writing and accepted from members in good standing when, for any reason, they cannot attend the Annual Meeting.

You may vote by mail for the candidates of your choice. All ballots must be received no later than Tuesday Dec 9. The offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer have one member running for office. We have six candidates for three positions as Director. Please vote for three candidates for director.

President-WA3GM Greg Malone
Vice President-W3AOK Bill Popovic
Secretary-WU3I Steve Hoch
Treasurer-KB3IV-Ed Masarsky

Directors-Vote for three

___ND3B- Rick DeVirgilliis

___WA3BXH-Jack Coupe

___KB2ERL-Bob Nicotera

___K3GBA-Sam Smith

___WA3KIO-Fred Rice

___N3SHM Jim Lamonte

If you wish to mail this ballot, address it to;

PMRC
P.O. Box 404
Warminster, Pa 18974

Thank you for your support.

Al Tribble W3STW
Judge of Elections

Bob Thomas cont.

Joe started the machine and after sending “V” a few times it got into the routine of five-character groups. Everything was going well and I was nailing it until the routine groups were suddenly interrupted by simulated messages from a ship in distress. “What is that?! This was supposed to be all routine five-character groups,” I thought, completely flummoxed by the unexpected plain language. I stumbled but finally regained composure and when the test was thankfully over Joe took my paper and started counting characters. Every time he came to an error he marked it with an X and began counting again. Error after dreaded error kept appearing right before my eyes! Finally, in the *last minute*, there were 65 consecutive characters with no errors. What a relief! Three weeks later my W3QZO license arrived and I was on the air with arguably the worst CW call known to man.

While on this diversion from goings-on at El-Tronics, a few words about our neighborhood might be appropriate. Our building was surrounded by typical Philadelphia brick row houses. Kids played stick ball in the street after school, and on warm evenings parents came out to sit on their scrubbed front steps (“stoop”). One evening when I was working late, a string band performed below on Howard Street. The nearest thing to crime might have been an occasional tussle in one of the bars that seemed to be on every corner, but I never felt uneasy about walking to the El station after working late at night. Today I wouldn’t go near the place even in daylight; it must have been a case of being at the right place at the right time.

Back at El-Tronics, after the CAA pulse counter was in production I was given a new project. We had secured a contract with RCA for manufacture of their new WV-98C VolyOhmyst vacuum tube voltmeter. Earlier VoltOhmysts had an excellent reputation in service shops and laboratories, and the WV-98 extended the line with a larger meter and performance upgrades. RCA supplied us a complete set of drawings and a list of approved component vendors. I was responsible for designing and building test fixtures, writing the test procedure, and ordering production test equipment needed to

ensure conformity to RCA’s product specs. It was an interesting, but not particularly challenging assignment, and the precarious financial condition of El-Tronics was always in my mind.

Every week or so Don, the RCA Product manager for the WV-98C, made a visit to monitor our progress and answer any of our questions about the job. I got to know him pretty well and once while we were on our way to Camden to confer with his colleagues about the project, our conversation turned to possible opportunities for employment with his company. He seemed eager to pursue the possibility for me, even offering to arrange interviews with several departments. That was a terrific opportunity so I asked him to go ahead and he set up three interviews.

One session, because of my association with the WV-98, was naturally arranged with the RCA Parts Department, where Don worked in Marketing. The orphan nature of the service instrument operation became apparent when I learned it was just a minor sideline within the RCA Tube Division. That wasn’t really what I had in mind for an engineering career and, based upon the trend then for farming out production of RCA service instruments to subcontractors it didn’t appear to be an activity with much future. He also suggested the Aviation Radio Department and set up an interview with Jack Starner, the general manager, and an active ham. The interview went well – about half our conversation was about ham radio. They made the kind of aircraft commercial radio equipment that was interesting, but I was concerned that the whole operation would be susceptible to takeover by the Government Division of RCA (which it eventually was) and that was the absolute last place I wanted to work, so I took a pass. Where I really wanted to go was RCA Broadcast Systems Division where television studio equipment was designed so Don kindly arranged for an interview with an engineering manager from there. It was a good fit, they made an offer, and I accepted, leaving only one problem: How to tell Jack Wagenseller I was leaving El-Tronics! *(Continued next page)*

When there was a lull of visitors in Jack's office I went in sheepishly and broke the news. Unflappable Jack puffed on his pipe, watched the smoke drift upward, and finally said, "Bob, you're making a big mistake. I worked at RCA for three years and know what it's like. You will be insignificant there, somebody to plug into a project and then be forgotten. You'll be back here within two years." I appreciated his candor but by then, and especially in view of El-Tronics' weak finances, I was determined to make the change. In the long run, Jack's prediction was somewhat inaccurate; I stayed at RCA for the next 31 years. Meanwhile El-Tronics managed to hang on with small jobs for a few more years at Howard Street and continued at another location as sales of radiation counters dwindled, but eventually the company closed down and faded into obscurity.

EPILOGUE [or possibly a sidebar??]

While searching for material for this article I encountered the *Boat Anchor Pix* web page maintained by Rich, KB8TAD.¹ In one section of his site Rich describes and illustrates his meticulous restoration of an El-Tronics AE-30 transmitter, including documentation of its performance. The accompanying photograph of the AE-30 is from his web page.² It should be noted that Rich has comparable in-depth descriptions for over 300 other vintage transmitters, receivers, instruments and HiFi equipment, as well as links to a wealth of publications, including amateur radio handbooks, tube manuals, books describing design of tube-based equipment and general references of the period; it is a gold mine for anyone interested in radio of the '40s to '60s.



The AE-30 was designed and manufactured in small quantities at El-Tronics circa 1946-48, before my time there. It is a 30-Watt all-band CW transmitter with single-knob control of the VFO and gang-tuned RF stages. It has a large, hand-calibrated dial and excellent keying with QSK – very much a “CW man’s CW rig,” the obvious brain child of old-timer Waggenseller. It was advertised in March 1948 QST for \$220 when competitive alternatives cost much less. Additionally, the AE-30 was one of the last amateur transmitters employing open construction that could not cope with the looming hostile environment of TVI, so it was not commercially successful.

¹ <http://www.ohio.edu/people/posr/bapix/index.htm>

² <http://www.ohio.edu/people/posr/bapix/eltronics.htm>

December at Phil-Mont

7 Sun K3EUI NCS
 Pearl Harbor Day
 10 Wed General Meeting & Election
 14 Sun K3XS NCS
 16 Tues Hannukah
 18 Thur VE session
 21 Sun KB3IV NCS
 Winter Solstice
 25 Thurs Christmas
 28 Sun W3MHP NCS

Don't forget the ARES net on Sunday nights and the Digital net on Tuesday nights.

--... ..-- .. . -..-- -...

For Sale

1/8" (290#) & 3/16" (380#) Dark Olive Drab Braided Cord · 100% Polyester/Dacron Knit Braided. Nice stuff! Tough and long lasting · UV Resistant and Low Stretch Proudly Made in the U.S.A.! Contact Steve WU3I at wu3i@arrl.net or 215-605-6074

DX Engineering 6BTV (6 band trap vertical) good condition with some radials and right angle connector on base. \$100 OBO. Rick, ND3B@arrl.net or 215-908-7225

First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
 1700 Street Rd. Apt. H3, Warrington PA, 18976

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